

HOSPITAL EXPENDITURE,
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OR
COST OF MAINTENANCE
IN THE VARIOUS
LONDON HOSPITALS,
WITH
ANALYTICAL TABLES OF CURRENT
EXPENDITURE.

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EXPLANATION OF THE TABLE.

THE plan of analysis of the expenditure in the different London Hospitals, given in this paper, originated with Mr. Wilkinson, of St. Mary's Hospital, in the year 1868. To him I desire to accord any merit which may be due for the mode of arrangement.

The prominence given to King's College Hospital in this analysis arises from the circumstance that it was principally to trace, if possible, the cause of the large increase of expenditure in this Hospital during the last four or five years that these tables were compiled. The other Hospitals were afterwards added, in order to make a comparison with similar establishments.

The expenditure is principally given for the year 1872. When this analysis was prepared, the accounts of 1873 had not been published by the various Hospitals.

In framing the table the aim has been to omit, in each case, so far as it is known, the extraordinary items of expenditure which occasionally occur in all Hospitals. Thus, in the case of King's College Hospital, the expenditure on the new wing has been excluded; and deductions have been made for repayments by St. John's Nursing Institution, and also for the board of the resident medical officers

In the case of University College Hospital, deductions from the published accounts have been made, of £700 for buildings; £150 for interest on loans; £124 14s. 7d. for exceptional law expenses; £698 4s. 4d. for the medical baths; and £448 repayment for resident medical officer's board. All these sums being exceptional, and forming no part of current expenses for the maintenance of patients, have been omitted from the annual cost.

In the case of some other Hospitals, owing to the want of greater division of the items in the published accounts, it is possible some sums of expenditure may have been included in the amount of annual cost.

The considerable differences which exist between the cost as shown by these Tables, and similar estimates published by other parties, admit of easy explanation. In this Table deductions have been made for all matters, so far as they can be ascertained, not actually expended on the patients as current expenses. Hence the present estimate per bed occupied is much lower in some cases than the amounts shown in other recent publications, in which it would appear these needful deductions have not been made. The largest item of the kind (which applies to every Hospital), is the cost of the Out-patients' Department. The sum of one shilling per head for every out-patient has been deemed, on the fullest consideration, to be a fair average. The cost of this department is not only for drugs and medicines as some people imagine; but it includes a large sum for attendance, cleaning, firing, repairs, alterations, printing, dispensary expenses, surgical appliances, &c., &c. In some Hospitals an account has been kept of these items, and it has been found to agree very accurately with the assumed average of one shilling per head, for each individual patient.

H O S P I T A L S T A T I S T I C S F O R 1 8 7 2 - 3.

	1869.	1870.	KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL. 1871.	1872.	1873.	University College. 1872.	Charing Cross. 1872.	Westminster. 1872.	Royal Free, 1872.	London. 1872.	St. George's. 1872.	St. Mary's. 1872.
Provisions—Meat	£ s. d. 1150 12 7	£ s. d. 1255 0 4	£ s. d. 1297 15 2	£ s. d. 1066 14 6	£ s. d. 1268 4 5	£ s. d. 1145 18 2	£ s. d. 971 9 2	£ s. d. 1218 2 6	£ s. d. 1036 19 0	£ s. d. 3339 17 10	£ s. d. 1551 1 5	£ s. d. 390 10 5
Bread	250 8 2	254 17 4	265 11 2	207 19 10	245 3 1	724 9 0	204 17 2	297 4 5	243 8 11	744 7 6	1551 1 5	390 10 5
Milk	334 18 9	335 17 1	370 5 1	359 14 10	362 18 4	388 14 3	277 0 7	152 16 7	237 18 2	686 12 0	293 11 7	364 13 11
Porter and Ale, &c. .. .	298 17 6	295 7 6	253 4 9	205 8 7	220 15 11	245 14 2	247 19 6	176 4 4	243 16 11	594 19 0	1127 13 0	477 13 0
Butter, Eggs, &c. .. .	422 11 11	402 11 11	453 8 1	394 16 9	409 6 10	281 11 4	322 7 11	17 2 11	252 18 11	1127 13 0	477 13 0	606 8 9
Other Provisions .. .	361 0 3	333 13 0	319 3 4	355 0 6	357 14 3	400 5 1	288 11 3	363 16 6	320 15 11	1452 4 3		
Less sums repaid for Medical Officer's Board, and for Supplies to Nursing Staff .. .	2818 9 2 1220 12 10	2877 7 2 1125 1 8	2959 7 7 1112 11 0	2589 15 0 307 18 5	2864 2 10 320 0 0	2686 12 0 448 0 0						
Washing	1597 16 4 (for 8 months) 338 14 5	1752 5 6	1846 16 7	2281 16 7	2544 2 10	2238 12 0	2312 5 7 (12 Months.) 338 0 3	2725 7 3	2335 17 10	15519 9 3	7945 13 7	3489 4 1
Coals, Coke, and Wood .. .	537 13 6	569 1 6	633 19 6	906 2 0	1101 1 6	411 11 3	347 18 3	281 18 3	239 7 3	1074 16 11	169 5 2	575 17 0
Gas	358 9 0	310 16 3	301 5 6	319 16 3	403 13 3	253 2 9	175 2 2	335 18 0	189 12 0	841 15 0	204 14 7	133 10 2
Soap, Candles, &c. .. .	109 3 11	161 14 7	124 13 4	141 18 1	135 10 10	111 6 2	522 10 8	144 11 9	159 9 9	233 15 6	204 14 7	133 10 2
Furniture and Sundries .. .	584 19 1	392 14 11	519 0 8	721 19 4	483 12 1	542 6 0	400 7 8	86 15 5	171 13 0	144 1 3	133 10 2	344 11 5
Dispensary and Surgery—Drugs .. .	630 13 10	576 19 1	493 18 6	741 10 2	651 1 1	1025 12 0	351 3 0	572 19 11	1683 0 1	1187 2 6	767 0 0	79 12 11
Plaster, Lint, &c. .. .	405 9 9	386 1 7	377 19 6	487 15 2	452 3 9	455 0 11	361 17 9	85 6 8	1248 7 2	653 14 6	79 12 11	609 19 2
Wines and Spirits .. .	436 1 6	348 12 6	361 16 2	384 17 0	403 5 11	390 14 10	36 3 5	367 8 3	1252 2 3	381 18 0	609 19 2	258 15 2
Sundries	251 19 0	234 5 4	307 17 7	378 11 2	360 1 11	410 10 8	1014 12 0	222 12 4	461 7 9	277 3 9	258 15 2	2481 10 0
Nursing (including female servants) .. .	1345 0 0	1345 0 0	1345 0 0	1843 6 2	2340 0 11	1500 0 0	1234 19 7	1178 8 4	1252 2 3	exclusive of Board, 1593 2 2	2481 10 0	613 10 3
Salaries, Wages, Liveries, &c. .. .	1396 16 9	1555 13 3	1565 7 9	1617 4 2	1644 9 7	1816 9 3	298 15 1	92 9 4	602 1 1	1190 0 7	613 10 3	539 7 8
Repairs	922 18 9	608 12 9	697 13 6	1102 1 0	787 12 3	557 8 5	708 2 1	661 0 1	873 11 8	1903 17 5	539 7 8	
Miscellaneous Rates, Taxes, Insurance, Ad- vertisements, &c. .. .	776 9 3	680 14 2	483 2 10	523 8 2	612 17 0	617 7 10				2440 14 10		
Less cost of Out-patients at 1s. each .. .	9692 5 1 1596 11 0	8872 11 5 1752 5 0	9057 11 5 1623 0 0	11893 18 0 1590 18 0	11926 0 2 1694 6 0	10330 2 1 774 6 0	8101 17 6 796 8 0	7907 19 7 1042 2 0	7968 2 8 2314 19 0	35480 12 11 3213 15 0	20139 13 7 834 11 0	10321 17 7 1039 3 0
Total cost of In-patients	8095 14 1	7120 6 5	7434 11 5	9803 0 0	10231 14 2	9555 16 1	7305 9 6	6365 17 7	5653 3 8	32266 17 11	19305 2 7	9282 14 7
Average cost of each Bed occupied .. .	61 16 0	51 11 11	51 19 9	63 13 1	66 8 9	71 16 11	62 19 6	49 0 10	59 10 1	62 10 7	62 5 5	66 6 1
Average cost of each In-patient .. .	4 17 1	4 9 2	4 16 6	5 9 4	5 16 2	5 7 9	5 7 3	3 18 2	3 17 11	5 19 8	5 8 9	5 4 5
Total Number of Paid Nurses .. .	30	30	32	42	42	30	23	23	21	105	54	25
Number of Beds	150	150	150	170	170	150	120	193	102	642	353	157
Number of Patients' average .. .	131	138	143	154	154	133	116	140	95	516	310	140
Number of In-patients for the year .. .	1667	1597	1540	1792	1761	1777	1362	1756	1451	5392	3550	1777
Number of Out-patients .. .	31931	35045	32460	31818	33886	15486	15928	20842	46299	64275	16691	20783
Average days for each In-patient .. .	30	32	33	28	32	27	31	29	24	35	31.3	28.7
Proportion of Patients to each Bed occupied .. .	12.7	11.5	10.7	10.6	11.4	13.3	11.7	12.5	15.2	10.4	11.4	12.6
Number of Patients to each Nurse .. .	4.3	4.1	4.4	3.6	3.6	4.4	5.0	6.0	4.5	4.9	5.7	5.6
Total Number of Articles washed per week of Hospital Linen .. .	1954	2452	2460	2359	1873. 3003	1870 3593	1870. 614	1872. 1099	1872 627	1873 627	1872 2577	1873. 1488
Number of Articles of Hospital Linen washed per week for each Bed occupied .. .	14.9	17.7	17.2	17.2	19.4	12.3	5.5	7.3	6.6	2978 5.6	8.3	10.6



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The statements in this paper are not intended for scientific purposes: they are wholly confined to monetary and economical questions. It may, however, not be deemed out of place here to notice how small a part of the actual cost of maintenance arises from the actual food consumed by the patients. In the able papers annually published by Dr. Steele, of Guy's Hospital, he gives the cost of the food consumed by the patients in eighteen important Hospitals for the year 1871. By this it appears that at the prices then paid, the average cost per patient *per week* for food only amounted to 3s. 8½d., calculated by the dietary tables of the various Hospitals. This is equal to £9 12s. 10d. per annum. This sum is, of course, now increased by the additional cost of food since that date. By a second table of Dr. Steele's, calculated from returns of six principal London Hospitals giving the actual sums expended for provisions for 12 months, the weekly cost per patient amounts to 6s. 4½d. per week. This mode of calculation is allowedly open to many inaccuracies, as Dr. Steele has pointed out.

But comparing these sums with the whole cost of each patient *per annum*, as shown by the annexed tables, it will be seen that the average total cost per patient per annum in eight principal London Hospitals for the year 1872, was £62 5s. 3d., or very nearly six times the cost of food alone.

Over many of these items of expense, constituting, therefore, five-sixths of Hospital maintenance, a wise and judicious economy may well be practised, without lowering the benefit to be derived by the patients from good and wholesome nourishment. Dr. Guy likewise has shown, in an able paper upon the rates of mortality in Hospitals, that

in the curative results in the various London Hospitals, there is no appreciable difference which can be shown to result from any peculiar treatment, management, or sanitary arrangements. The subject may, therefore, well interest all persons concerned in Hospital management, as at present many Hospitals have accommodation for a much larger number of patients than their funds permit them to receive.

A few hundred copies of this paper have been printed for private distribution. Any person wishing for a copy may have one sent by Post, by addressing the Author as under.

Grangewood, Upper Norwood, S.E.

